



THE FLYLEAF

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FRIENDS OF THE
FONDREN LIBRARY
AT RICE UNIVERSITY

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FRIENDS OF THE FONDREN LIBRARY
is an association of bibliophiles interested in book collecting, and particularly interested in increasing and making better known the resources of the Fondren Library at Rice University. It shall be the purpose of this organization to secure gifts and bequests and provide funds, whenever possible, for the purchase of rare books, manuscripts, and other material which could not otherwise be acquired by the Library.

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the Fondren Library, Rice
University, Houston, Texas

THE CASE FOR EXHIBITS

Recently, while working after hours on an exhibit, a man watching the work commented with a grin, "Well, the elves don't do the exhibits after all!" The knowledge that there actually is a person responsible for the Fondren Library exhibits comes as a distinct surprise to many people. A popular misconception has it that the whole thing is simply a matter of putting a few books together in the cases and that is all there is to it. Admittedly, that is true up to a point, although certainly an oversimplification. Perhaps the most time-consuming and little-known aspect of preparing any display is the research that is done before any material is ever put into a case so that what is finally displayed will be relevant, meaningful, and have continuity. The research begins as soon as the subject is chosen. It provides the background information for the exhibit, titles of books to be used, and sometimes even the related non-book materials that are available. Obviously, the person in charge of exhibits cannot be an expert on every display that is mounted, but it helps to "read up" and know something about each one. Even the books used in an exhibit are opened to certain pages in order to communicate to viewers some interesting aspect of the total exhibit.

Five to seven library displays are usually planned for each academic year. The number may vary according to prior commitments, specific requests, special events, etc. Requests for specific exhibits and ideas for others are first submitted to a library panel and, if approved, they are then scheduled. Suggestions for exhibits from the Rice community are welcomed and requests from individual faculty members and departments are encouraged. Exhibits complimenting academic-oriented programs and projects have long been one of their primary purposes. Unfortunately, some requests come too late or cannot be filled because of prior scheduling or limited physical facilities, but the library welcomes all suggestions. If you have considered making an exhibit request, please submit it early, preferably in the Spring for the following academic year.

If the library exhibit is a large one using all the cases on both the first and the second floor, a great many books may be examined and eliminated before the final selection is made. Once the books have been chosen, however, the next step is to identify them with captions and then prepare and type any explanatory material that is to be used. Only when these two steps have been completed does the actual physical placement of materials begin. Each book or article is carefully placed in the case with the hope of catching the viewer's attention.

Subjects for exhibits are varied, but twice a year, for Homecoming and Commencement, special displays are planned using Rice archival materials. These serve to make students aware of their academic heritage and to reinforce ties with alumni. The holidays in December are also noted with an annual exhibit appropriate to the season. If there is a Christmas tree in the library foyer, that is prepared by Exhibits. Displays or exhibits

planned for the remainder of this year include "COLLECTOR'S CHOICE," an exhibit prepared by Stephen Hamilton, Rice senior and ardent rare book collector;* a Texana exhibit, and, of course, a Commencement display. If time and space permit, the second floor cases may also "host" a surprise exhibit this Spring.

The exhibits in the Fondren Library are designed to do a number of different things (though not all at the same time!). The intent of one particular display may be to make the Rice community aware of a significant special collection; another to feature outstanding and interesting gifts from "FRIENDS" and other donors; and still another to spotlight important or unusual materials available for research or simply to make the library a more pleasant place in which to work. Whatever the intent of any particular exhibit, all are displayed with you, the viewer, in mind and with the hope that what you see will be informative, interesting, and worthwhile.

Ola Zachry Moore
Exhibits
Fondren Library

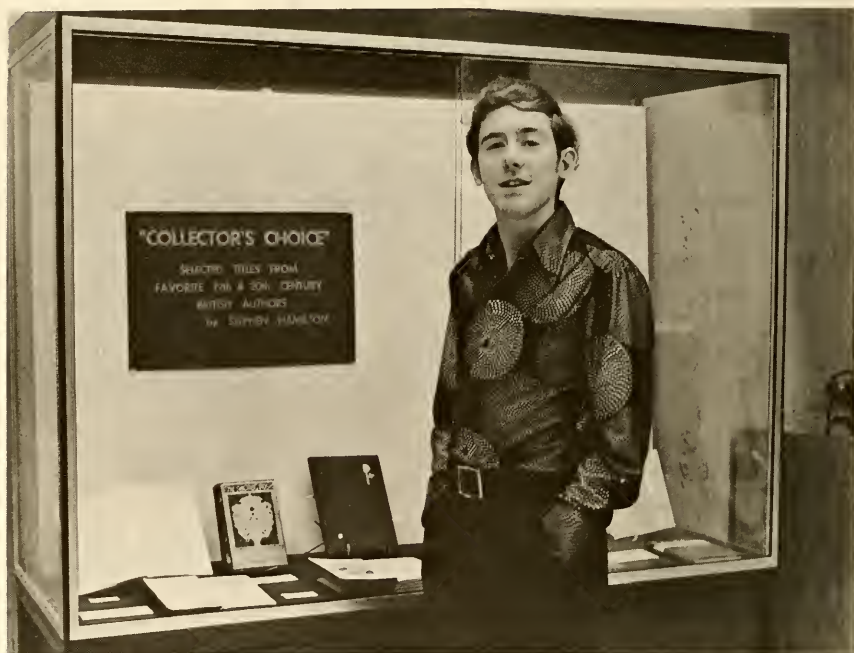
*See below for additional information about this particular exhibit.

COLLECTOR'S CHOICE

The main library exhibit this month, entitled "Collector's Choice," highlights select British authors of this and the last century. As such it is the second exhibit here to focus on the possibilities for contemporary book collecting, especially for the *young* collector. Like the exhibit held last spring, "The Collector's New England," it could not have been attempted without the consideration and able suggestions of Mrs. Ola Moore of Exhibits. As a Rice student whose "collecting life" has coincided roughly with my attendance at Rice, I should like to point out that there are still rich opportunities available for the interested bibliophile who has the time and enthusiasm to pursue the bargain and the vital "first edition."

This exhibit centers on a few authors, and on W. B. Yeats and Rupert Brooke in particular, because of their eminent "collectability." Many of the essential first appearances of these men saw light in editions of only 500, 250, or even 99 copies. Gathered here are some unusual association items as well—the first program of the Abbey Theatre, books presented by Tennyson and Yeats to their associates, and one of the few autograph poem manuscripts of Edith Sitwell outside the University of Texas. This grouping is not intended to encompass by any means the wealth and breadth of modern English letters. Shaw, Eliot, Joyce and a host of others all have their adherents in any collector's confraternity. Yet in these few exhibit cases it is possible to observe the British intellect developing in a dozen different directions from the middle-class melancholy of Tennyson to the

aristocratic iconoclasm of the Sitwells; from the brilliance of Georgian Cambridge to the futurism of H. G. Wells.



Stephen Hamilton, Rice Senior, with part of his personal collection of contemporary books on display in the Fondren Library.

A book collector on his quest generally fluctuates between despondency and hope. He must constantly ask himself two questions: Is the object I have in mind achievable? Will the shape of my collection have any ultimate significance? The first of these can definitely still be answered "yes." Surprisingly, many of the great British books are found more easily today among the dealers of New York, Los Angeles, and Austin than they are in London and Dublin. As to the second question, that is for the reader to decide, but it is hoped that his response may not be entirely unfavorable.

Stephen Hamilton
Rice '75





Robert L. Patten, Associate Professor of English at Rice, and Mrs. Wiley N. Anderson as Mrs. Cratchit in rehearsal for the Dickensian Christmas party in the Kyle Morrow Memorial Room of the Fondren Library. Photo: *Houston Chronicle*, Copyright 1974.

AUTHENTIC PLUM PUDDING BRINGS TASTE OF DICKENS

Just as Charles Dickens described it in *The Christmas Carol*—"like a speckled cannon-ball, so hard and firm, blazing in half-a-quartern of ignited brandy. . ."—in came the authentic English plum pudding to tantalize the Friends at December's Christmas lecture. Borne aloft and blazing by a hoop-skirted belle, Mrs. Wiley N. Anderson, dressed in scarlet Dickensian costume, the pudding was the most exotic prop of the evening called forth from Fondren Library's inner regions by Associate Professor of English Robert L. Patton, reading on cue from the famous Dickens' tale.

But there was more in store for the 150 Friends—namely, the actual consumption of pounds and pounds of the rich black pudding topped with snowy hard sauce. The puddings were authentic and made from a recipe said to have been eaten by King George V.

The recipe was given to the Sam S. Emison family forty years ago and is said to have originated from a cook in George's royal household. Mr. and

Mrs. Emison and Mrs. Carl Illig supervised the preparation of enough steamed puddings for the Friends, and the Emisons generously shared the recipe which is traditionally prepared each Yuletide in their family.

The recipe attracted the attention of *The New York Times* gastronome Craig Claiborne who printed it Dec. 19 in *The Times*, calling it "sober-minded, rum-soaked and excellent." He noted the pudding is good if made only a few days before serving. It also freezes well and can be served throughout the winter, he added.

Here is the famed recipe which also appeared in Food Editor Ann Valentine's column in the *Houston Post*:

CHRISTMAS PLUM PUDDING—KING GEORGE V

- 1 pound seeded raisins
- 1 pound sultanas—golden seedless raisins
- 1 pound currants
- 6 ounces whole raw almonds, blanched and chopped or sliced
- 4 ounces candied peel—cut up
- 1 pound dry bread crumbs
- 1 pound ground suet
- 1 pound Winesap apples—peeled and chopped small—
weigh apples after peeled and cored
- 1 pound brown sugar
- ½ pound all purpose flour (2 cups)
- 1½ teaspoons salt
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 tablespoon allspice
- 4 teaspoons ground ginger
- ½ teaspoon nutmeg
- 1 rind of lemon—grated (yellow only)
- 6-8 eggs (1 1/3 cups) well beaten
- 4 ounces (½ cup) Myers Planters Punch dark rum

Add salt, baking powder, allspice, ginger and nutmeg to flour. Sift 7 times. Put the flour mixture in mixing bowl. Separate seeded raisins and drop one-by-one into flour—add candied peel—mix well, working with fingers until separated and well coated with flour.

Put currants, sultanas, almonds, bread crumbs, suet, brown sugar, chopped apples, lemon rind and flour mixture in a large container, approximately 4 gallons capacity. Mix thoroughly with hands, reaching to bottom of pot and lifting up. Then add rum—mix thoroughly—then add beaten eggs and again mix thoroughly. Mixture will be damp and crumbly. Let stand overnight.

Makes about 9¼ pounds.

Divide into 3 greased bowls. If necessary contents may be rounded above top of bowl. Cover tightly with foil. Do not mash down. Pudding will shrink in volume as cooked. Place bowls on high trivets in heavy pot containing 1 inch of water. Cover pot closely. Use high heat first, then as steam begins to escape, lower heat just so steam will not escape. Steam 8 hours adding more water if required.

Three large puddings will serve 50 people.

No.	Wt.	Steam Time	Servings
3	3 lb.	8 hrs.	16 (3 oz. each)
4	2 lb. 5 oz.	6 hrs.	12

For smaller plum puddings, steam 10 minutes per ounce of weight.

After steaming set aside at room temperature overnight to cool. Remove from bowl. Wrap in foil with double lock seal. Age in refrigerator. Will keep several months in refrigerator—or may be frozen and stored indefinitely. Plum puddings are better if aged at least 30 days before serving.

To Serve: Steam any size pudding 2 hours, using same instructions above. Turn pudding out on *flat* plate. (If a rimmed plate is used, rum will run under pudding and not burn). Pour rum on plate around pudding. Light and ladle flaming rum over pudding. *When burned away*, serve with hard sauce.

Note: Rum should burn about one minute as it slightly toasts the surface of the pudding. Use Ron Rico purple label 151 proof rum. Lower proofs do not burn readily.

This recipe is one used by the late King George V.

HARD SAUCE

½ pound (1 cup) butter
1 pound (4 cups sifted) confectioners sugar
1½ tablespoons Myers Planters Punch dark rum
2½ tablespoons Coronet VSQ Brandy
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 (2 tablespoons) egg white

Cream butter, add sugar and egg white alternately. Beat well after each addition. Then add remaining sugar and liquids alternately, beating well after each addition. Store in a screw-top jar. This recipe

makes enough for a 3 pound Plumb Pudding, enough for 16 servings. (Beaten well yields 4 cups.) Serve at room temperature.



Sam S. Emison, Treasurer of the Friends, prepares a plum pudding for the Dickensian Christmas party. Photo: *The Houston Post*, Copyright 1974.

LIBATION OF THE PERIOD HELPS WASH DOWN PUDDING

Not to be outdone by the King George plum puddings, Friends' Christmas party chairperson, Mrs. George E. Howe, came up with a recipe for a hot, spiced wine punch called Mr. Dickens Smoking Bishop which warmed the cockles of many a merrymaker that evening and perfectly complimented the pudding.

Here is how to make the bishop:

MR. DICKENS SMOKING BISHOP

“Fine oranges, well roasted, with sugar and wine in a cup,
They’ll make a sweet Bishop when gentlefolks sup.”

6 Seville oranges
 $\frac{3}{4}$ pound sugar
cloves
1 bottle Portuguese red wine
1 bottle port

or use:

5 California oranges
 $\frac{3}{4}$ pound sugar
1 teaspoon cloves
1 bottle California burgundy
1 bottle California port

Bake the oranges in the oven until they are pale brown and then put them into a warmed bowl and pour over them the bottle of wine. Add the sugar. Then spike each orange with a couple of cloves. Cover and leave in a warm room for 24 hours.

Prior to serving heat the mixture in a bowl over a pan of boiling water, pressing the oranges with a spoon to split them and extract the juice. When the mixture is steaming hot, strain into a clean bowl and add the bottle of port heating over boiling water. Serve hot.

This will provide 10 to 12 glasses.

Others who deserve special thanks in making that evening so memorable include Mrs. Edward Kelley, Jr., Mrs. Phil Sherwood, Mrs. Faye Sarofim, and Mrs. Raymond C. Bishop.



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Many Friends, faculty, and authors make donations of books and journals. These are too numerous to list. Such gifts have been received from the following:

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SPECIAL GIFTS

Other gifts, which may be of general interest, are as follows:

CHARLES CLARK donated the following rare books:
The Complete Angler, by Izaak Walton (London, 1835); A Short History of the English People, by John Richard Green (London, 1901); The Genuine Works of Josephus, by Flavius Josephus, (Bridgeport, 1833).

THE DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, LADY WASHINGTON CHAPTER, gave a subscription to Daughters of the American Revolution Magazine.

MR. J. W. HERSHEY, president of the HERSHEY FOUNDATION, nominated Fondren Library as a member of the American Section of the Permanent International Association of Navigation Congresses, which will enable the library to receive the technical reports and publications of this Association.

MRS. E. H. LITTMAN donated to the Shepherd School of Music a great number of musical scores, which are to be housed in the Fondren Library.

Art Work of Houston, Texas, published in parts by the Gravure Illustration Company, 1904, was originally owned by Mr. & Mrs. T. W. House and was presented by their granddaughter, MRS. ROY NEEDHAM (Mary Louise Howze, B.A., Rice '25) to Pender Turnbull to be added to the collection named in honor of the architect who contributed so greatly to the building of Houston: William Ward Watkin.

An anonymous Friend donated The Madrid Codices of Leonardo da Vinci, a unique facsimile edition of the notebooks which had been lost for over a century. This handsome red leather-bound edition will be housed in the Woodson Research Center.

GIFTS IN KIND

In memory of JULES ALCIATORE, Mr. & Mrs. André Bourgeois presented Voyage en limousin et correspondance of Jean de la Fontaine.

Isabel John Evans presented five rare books from the collection of her husband GRIFFITH CONRAD EVANS, in his memory. These books, many dating from the 16th century, include works of Aristotle, Bembo, Bernoulli, Euclid, and Petrarch.

Mrs. Michael I. Kearns donated twelve books in memory of her husband CAPT. MICHAEL I. KEARNS, U.S.N.R.

The Burkitt Foundation made available funds for the purchase of a special collection to be added to the Axson Collection, in memory of ALAN D. McKILLOP.

Mrs. Raymond Meyer gave a large number of books from the library of RAYMOND MEYER, in his memory.

The family of ROBERT G. ROTHSCHILD donated in his memory many books from his collection.

Mr. & Mrs. Andre Bourgeois donated the book Vie anecdote de Jean de la Fontaine in memory of M. XAVIER RUBAN.

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The Friends of Fondren Library have made a special contribution for purchase of books in honor of the three lecturers who have appeared thus far this season:	
GEORGE G. WILLIAMS	<u>Bird Life of Texas</u> , by Harry C. Oberholser
	<u>Cassell's Encyclopedia of World Literature</u>
ROBERT L. PATTEN	<u>Original Manuscripts and Annotated Proof From the Forster Collection, Victoria and Albert Museum</u> , of Charles Dickens
MRS. WILLIAM P. HOBBY, JR.	<u>Galveston</u> , by Charles W. Hayes <u>Classic Fairy Tales</u> , by Iona & Peter Opie <u>Fra Angelica</u> , by John Pope-Hennessy

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